

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) In ~~an apparatus~~ a fuel cell assembly including ~~a stepper motor as an actuator of~~ for moving a moveable element pintle against a variable load, a method for increasing the torque output of the ~~stepper motor~~ actuator to overcome a load exceeding the nominal torque output capability of the ~~stepper motor actuator~~, comprising the steps of:

- a) sensing when a high load condition exists; and
- b) increasing voltage provided to the ~~stepper motor~~ actuator to increase the torque output thereof when said high load condition exists.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 2 1 wherein said voltage increase is obtained from the electrical output of said fuel cell assembly.